



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

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April 25, 2000

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Suite TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Supplement to its Petition for Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures
CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing in the above matter please find one original and six copies of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Supplement to its Petition for Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures. Kindly stamp one copy and return it to us in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

Deanne M. Brutts

Deanne M. Brutts
Assistant Counsel

Enclosure

cc: per certificate of service

No. of Copies rec'd 015
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**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Petition for Declaratory Ruling and)	
Request for Expedited Action on)	NSD File No. L-99-101
July 15, 1997 Order of the Pennsylvania)	
Public Utility Commission Regarding)	
Area Codes 412, 610, 215 and 717)	DA 00-281
)	
Implementation of the Local Competition)	
Provisions of the Telecommunications)	CC Docket No. 96-98
Act of 1996)	
)	

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION'S
SUPPLEMENT TO ITS PETITION FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY
TO IMPLEMENT NUMBER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

INTRODUCTION

Through this Supplement, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) renews its request that the Federal Communication Commission (Commission) delegate to it authority to implement various number conservation measures pursuant to paragraphs 30 and 31 of what is commonly referred to as the *Pennsylvania Numbering Order*.¹ On March 31, 2000, the Commission released its *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200. In paragraph 170 of this Report and Order, the FCC directed states with pending petitions for delegated authority to file supplements demonstrating that:

- 1) an NPA in the state is in jeopardy,

¹ *In the Matter of Petition for Declaratory Ruling and Request for Expedited Action on July 15, 1997 Order of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Regarding Area Codes 412, 610, 215, 717; Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-98, 13 FCC Rcd 19009, 190029-31 (1999).*

- 2) the NPA in question has a remaining life span of at least a year, and
- 3) that the NPA is in one of the largest 100 MSAs, or alternatively, that the majority of wireline carriers in the NPA are LNP-capable.

Further, the FCC recognized that “special circumstances” might exist where pooling would be of benefit in NPAs that do not meet the above criteria and invited states to delineate any such situations.

DISCUSSION

In 1994, Pennsylvania had a total of only four area codes – 814, 717, 412, and 215. Over the past five years the number of area codes has increased to nine – 814, 717, 570, 412, 724, 215, 610, 484, and 267. On April 3, 2000 the industry began implementing a relief plan for 484 and 267 which involves a multiple-services overlay. Consequently, Pennsylvania will be receiving two more area codes in the near future, six of which cover only the southeastern region of the state. Also, based on past experiences, the PAPUC believes that more of its area codes (ones that have already been subject to relief planning) could be in jeopardy. With the authority to implement number conservation measures, the PAPUC will be able to curtail the rapid growth of new area codes in Pennsylvania. The PAPUC strongly urges the FCC to grant the pending petition for authority to implement number conservation measures.

A. NPAs in Jeopardy, Projected Exhaust Dates, and NPA Locations

Pennsylvania currently has three area codes in jeopardy, and all three have a remaining life span of more than a year according to NANPA's 1999 COCUS and NPA Exhaust Analysis². The 412 NPA was declared in jeopardy in October of 1999 and its projected exhaust date is the fourth quarter of 2001. The 484/610 area codes (484 is an overlay of 610) were also declared to be in jeopardy in October of 1999, and the projected exhaust date for these area codes is the fourth quarter 2001. The 412 NPA covers the Pittsburgh region and the 484/610 area codes encompass the Philadelphia region. Both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are both "Level A" MSAs (which is defined as areas of 1 million or more people). OMB Bulletin No. 99-04.³

Relief planning has been conducted for all three of these area codes currently in jeopardy as well as for their "counterpart" area codes which are not yet in jeopardy. In the 412 NPA and its counterpart 724 (724 is an overlay of 412), the new 878 area code (which will completely overlay the geographic areas now served by 412 and 724) will be activated on August 17, 2001. The 610/484 NPAs (484i is an overlay of 610) will also be receiving an overlay area code to serve that region of southeastern Pennsylvania. Although the specific NPA number has not yet been specified, implementation was to begin on April 3, 2000. The counterpart to 610/484 is 215/267 (267 was an overlay for the 215 NPA) and it will also be receiving a new area code under this same implementation schedule even though 215/267 has not yet been declared to be in jeopardy. Once the two new area codes are assigned to these already once overlaid area codes, the consumers of southeastern Pennsylvania will have a total of six area codes.

² A copy of this is available electronically from NANPA's home page at <http://www.nanpa.com>.

³ A copy of this report is available electronically from the OMB home page at <http://whitehouse.gov/OMB>.

B. Special Circumstances

The PAPUC submits that, regardless of the fact that relief planning is underway for the three area codes in jeopardy, special circumstances exist in Pennsylvania that necessitate the need for the PAPUC to now have the authority necessary to implement number conservation measures. Pennsylvania's experience with area code relief is that as soon as a new area code is introduced, it is shortly thereafter declared to be in jeopardy or NPA relief planning is necessary and more new area codes are implemented. This is the exact situation that Pennsylvania is currently dealing with in the Philadelphia region. Originally, this area was covered by the 215 NPA. The 215 area code was split on January 8, 1994 to create 610. Within 18 months of this split, area code relief planning began again. A multiple-services overlay for the region covered by both 215 and 610 was implemented in June of 1999 and two new area codes (267 to overlay 215 and 484 to overlay 610) were created. Within four months of instituting these two new area codes, 484 was declared to be jeopardy and NPA relief planning began for both 267 and 484. Now, two new NPAs are in the process of being implemented for this area to create the 215/267/new NPA and the 610/484/new NPA regions. With these six area codes, there will be approximately 47.5 million numbers available⁴ for this portion of a state that only has a population of approximately 12 million people⁵!

One of the most troubling aspects of this situation in southeastern Pennsylvania, however, is that the current utilization rates for the 267 and 484 NPAs are significantly low. Pennsylvania has been gathering utilization data on a voluntary basis from its carriers since implementation of the two area code overlays in June of 1999. About 87% of Pennsylvania's carriers have

⁴ "For purposes of NPA relief planning, it is assumed that the capacity of an NPA is 792 CO codes (NXXs)." INC Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines, Section 2.3.

responded and according to this data, the 267 NPA's utilization rate is 6%. The utilization rate for the 484 NPA (which is currently in jeopardy) is 4%. Regardless of the fact that the numbers within these NPAs are not being utilized and the fact that these two NPAs have been in place since only June of 1999, the industry has decided to implement two more overlays and create two more area codes. With the authority to institute number conservation measures in this region, the PAPUC could begin to alleviate the numbering crisis situation in southeastern Pennsylvania and forestall the need for more new area codes.

The PAPUC also has concerns regarding the Pittsburgh area. In March of 1998, the 412 geographic region was redefined and the 724 NPA was overlaid around it. Within 19 months, the 412 NPA was declared to be in jeopardy and on August 16, 1999 the industry adopted a multiple-services overlay which will create another new area code for the entire 412/724 region. With the ability to institute number conservation measures in any one of the three area codes surrounding the Pittsburgh area, the PAPUC would be able to ensure that numbers are allocated in a more efficient way to prevent the need for more new area codes.

Finally, the PAPUC would like the flexibility to implement number conservation measures in the northeastern/central region of Pennsylvania. Originally, that area was served by the 717 NPA which was split in April of 1999 to create the 570 area code. Although neither code is now in jeopardy, the PAPUC wants the authority to be able to ensure the longevity of these area codes and believes that by having the flexibility to implement number conservation measures this goal will be accomplished.

⁵ Based on information from the U.S. Census Bureau located at <http://www.census.gov>.

CONCLUSION

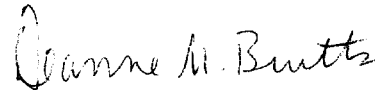
The PAPUC respectfully requests that the FCC grant it authority to implement thousands-block number pooling as well as the other number conservation measures outlined in its initial petition. The date for national number pooling is too difficult to determine while the current volatile area code situation presently in Pennsylvania demands that the PAPUC have the authority to consider implementing substantive relief.

NPA relief that has been repeatedly attempted over the last few years is not viable and this has been clearly demonstrated by Pennsylvania's experience with such options over the past few years. The PAPUC wants and needs the authority necessary to consider implementing the numbering conservation measures that will address and resolve the specific problems in Pennsylvania. For these reasons, the PAPUC requests that the FCC grant its initial request for the authority to implement number conservation measures pending rollout of the national framework outlined by the Commissions Report and Order released on March 31, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION

By its counsel:



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Assistant Counsel

Frank B Wilmarth
Deputy Chief Counsel

Bohdan R. Pankiw
Chief Counsel

Dated: April 25, 2000

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Implementation of the Local Competition)	
Provisions of the Telecommunications)	CC Docket No. 96-98
Act of 1996)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Deanne M. Brutts, hereby certify that I have on this 25th day of April, 2000, served an original and six true and correct copies of the Pennsylvania Public utility Commission's Supplement to its Petition for Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures upon the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission by first class mail and that I have served a true and correct copy of the Petition upon the other persons listed below by first class mail.

Via First Class Mail:

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